

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03791 031649Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-05 SAA-02 MCT-01  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02  
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O R 031602Z JUL 78  
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC  
USICA WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3791

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, LE  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESS LASHES OUT AT PHALANGE

1. TENOR OF SYRIAN PRESS JULY 3 REFLECTS BITTER FIGHTING  
IN BEIRUT BETWEEN SYRIAN ADF FORCES AND RIGHT-WING MILITIAS.  
PRESS IS BLUNT IN CONDEMNING THE PHALANGE ALTHOUGH IT  
APPEARS THAT SOME HOPE IS STILL HELD THAT CHAMOUNISTS CAN  
BE SPLIT OFF FROM THEIR PHALANGE ALLIES.

2. FRONT PAGE HEADLINES IN AL-BAATH AND TISHRIIN ALMOST  
IDENTICAL: AL-BAATH: "THE KATAEB AND THE LIBERALS (CHAMOUNISTS)  
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ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE TERRORISM WITH THE DETERRENT FORCES  
RESISTING. STATEMENT OF THE ZHORTA LEADERSHIP HOLDS  
CHAMOUN AND THE KATAEB RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES OF  
IHDIN AND THE BEKAA. FATHER DUWEIHI: THE KATAEB AND  
THE LIBERALS ARE EXPLOITING RELIGION AND THE MARONITES  
TO IMPOSE TRIBUTE AND FOR DOMINATION. THE DETERRENT  
FORCES ARE THE LAWFUL SECURITY FORCE AND TO ATTACK THEM

IS A CONSPIRACY AGAINST LEBANON."

3. ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE SAYS THAT "THE PHALANGISTS AND THE LIBERALS ARE CONTINUING TO OBSTRUCT THE MARCH OF SECURITY IN LEBANON IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THEIR DOMINATION OVER THE LEBANESE PEOPLE THROUGH VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. AT NOON YESTERDAY (SUNDAY) THESE GROUPS TRAINED MASSIVE FIRE ON THE POSITIONS OF THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCES IN THE CAPITAL OF BEIRUT AND THE ADF HAD TO INTERVENE AND SILENCE THE SOURCES OF FIRING."

4. THE REST OF THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATES ON THE STATEMENT OF FATHER DUWEIHI SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE MARONITE LEADERSHIP OF ZGHORTA. ARTICLES INDICATES THAT DUWEIHI "AFFIRMED THAT THE FORMER PRESIDENT, CAMILLE CHAMOUN, HAS ALSO FALLEN PREY TO THE DECEPTION OF THE PHALANGISTS. DUWEIHI QUOTING DAMASCUS RADIO ACCUSES THE PERPETRATORS OF THE BEKAA MASSACRES OF HAVING COMMITTED THE BEKAA MASSACRE "TO SHIFT ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE KILLERS (OF TONY FRANGIEH)...ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH DUWEIHI'S REMARKS ACCUSING THE PHALANGISTS OF BEING A "NAZI, FASCIST PARTY..."

5. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH ENTITLED: "WHAT IS BEHIND THE PHALANGE-CHAMOUNIST ESCALATION OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON", IS MAIDEN EFFORT OF NEW EDITOR YASSER AL-FARRA  
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HE ASKS RHETORICALLY WHAT THE TWO RIGHTIST PARTIES ARE SEEKING BY SHELLING THE ADF AND SUGGESTS THAT THEY ARE SEEKING THE RETURN OF SECTARIAN MASSACRES AND THE CIVIL WAR AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO DRAW SYRIA INTO A SERIES OF SKIRMISHES TO DIVERT SYRIAN FROM PLAYING "HER PILOT NATIONALIST ROLE IN REUNITING THE ENTIRE LEBANESE PEOPLE WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC LEBANON DOMINATED BY JUSTICE AND FREE OF SECTARIANISM. HE PREDICTS THAT THEIR EFFORTS WILL FAIL BECAUSE THE LEBANESE PEOPLE KNOW "THE NATURE OF THESE ARMED GANGS" WHICH HE SAYS SEEK TO SPLIT LEBANON AND TO ENTER INTO AN ALLIANCE "WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY". HE WARNS THAT THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT "THE MASSACRE OF IHDEN AGAINST THE ELITE OF THE MARONITE SECT ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REPRESENT THE MARONITES AND IN TURN LEBANON...THOSE WHO STAND BEHIND THE CLIQUE OF HADDAD AND SHIDIAC, THE CLIQUE WHICH OPENLY DEALS WITH ISRAEL, CANNOT CLAIM THAT THEY ARE MAINTAINING ORDER IN LEBANON".

6. HE ASSERTS THAT THE LEGAL AUTHORITY IN LEBANON "IS ASKED BEFORE ANYONE ELSE TO STRIKE WITH AN IRON FIST AT ANYONE WHO TRIES TO PLAY HAVOC WITH LEBANON'S SECURITY BECAUSE THE CONTINUATION OF THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE CARRIED OUT BY THE

PHALANGISTS AND THE LIBERALS IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY."

7. EDITORIAL ON SAME SUBJECT IN TISHRIIN BREAKS NO NEW GROUND BUT REMINDS READERS THAT SYRIA "WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN GIVING THE LEGAL (LEBANESE) AUTHORITY EVERY POSSIBLE ASSIST IN ORDER THAT IT CAN PUT AN END TO THE ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT PEACE AND SECURITY."  
PELLETREAU

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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